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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

VOLUME 21 SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY, 1939 NUMBER 1

Christmas Bird Census at Benicia, California

Benicia, California, December 26, 1938, 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Clear, very light north wind; temperature 37° at start, 50° at return. Observers traveling together by automobile 8 a. m. to 1 p. m. with occasional stops to canvass the marsh and hills along highway between Benicia and Cordelia, the two towns being fourteen miles apart. One observer (Stoner) traveling alone in same manner 1 p. m. to 5 p. m. Total man-hours 14. Western Grebe 11; California Heron 6; American Egret 17; Brewster Egret 7; Black-crowned Night Heron 6; Lesser Snow Goose 1500; Mallard 60; Pintail 2000; Green-winged Teal 80; Shoveller 185; Canvasback 300; Lesser Scaup 36; American Golden-eye 8; Ruddy Duck 275; Red-breasted Merganser 1; White-tailed Kite 2; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Marsh Hawk 13; Prairie Falcon 2; Sparrow Hawk 29; California Quail 15; American Coot 4000; Killdeer 26; Black-bellied Plover 3; Red-backed Sandpiper 18; Western Sandpiper 100; Glaucous-winged Gull 12; Western Gull 120; California Gull 28; Bonaparte Gull 23; Pacific Horned Owl 1; Burrowing Owl 3; Red-shafted Flicker 60; Say Phoebe 5; Tree Swallow 8; Nicasio Jay 32; Bush-tit 50; Suisun Marsh Wren 1; Mockingbird 1; Western Robin 15; Hermit Thrush 3; Western Bluebird 70; Mountain Bluebird 75; Townsend Solitaire 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 15; Pipit 150; Shrike 33; Audubon Warbler 75; House Sparrow 40; Meadowlark 500; San Francisco Red-wing 24; Brewer Blackbird 5000; House Finch 30; Willow Goldfinch 750; Green-backed Goldfinch 15; Sacramento Towhee 3; Savannah Sparrow 200; Lark Sparrow 7; Junco 28; Nuttall Sparrow 125; Golden-crowned Sparrow 30; Suisun Song Sparrow 8. Total 62 species, 16,247 individuals.

The flock of Lesser Snow Geese which winters on the Suisun Marsh may be seen from near this highway on clear days such as we enjoyed for this year's census. They are usually on or near Joice Island or to the south or west on Suisun or Montezuma slough. Unless they are in the air, one must obtain the elevation such as is afforded by one of the hills to the west of the Benicia-Cordelia highway in order to see them. A good estimate of their numbers is difficult and varies considerably among different observers.

The Townsend Solitaire was carefully observed with field glasses. It was feeding on toyon berries in a brushy section of the hills to the west of the highway.

James M. Barkley and Emerson A. Stoner, Benicia, California.

Christmas Bird Census for San Francisco

The Christmas census for 1938 was taken on December 18th, embracing Aquatic Park, Fort Mason, the Marina, the Presidio, the ocean beach, Golden Gate Park and Lake Merced, from 9:30 a. m. to 5 p. m. Light showers in the early morning with an average temperature of 54°.

In addition to the above territory, one of our members again visited Laurel Hill Cemetery, observing the following birds: Anna Hummingbird 2; Red-shafted Flicker 7; Black Phoebe 1; California Jays 6; Bush-tit 15; Robin 37; Western

Bluebird 5; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; Audubon Warbler 2; English Sparrow 25; Junco 1; eleven species, 102 individuals.

	Fort Mason to Beach	Golden Gate Park	Lake Merced
Eared Grebe	-----	4	100+
Western Grebe	32	-----	8
Farallon Cormorant	42	-----	5
Pied-billed Grebe	-----	18	20
Mallard	55	541	93
Baldpate	50	-----	106
Pintail	1	18	2
Green-winged Teal	-----	5	2
Shoveller	-----	1	7
Ring-necked Duck	74	1	105
Canvas-back	23	145	63
Lesser Scaup	3	79	2
White-winged Scoter	7	13	1
Ruddy Duck	18	132	20
Red-breasted Merganser	1	1	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1	2
Cooper Hawk	1	2	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1	1	3
Sparrow Hawk	2	1	5
Quail	25	93	76
Coot	325	474	1000+
Killdeer	-----	2	3
Glaucous-winged Gull	123	71	118
Western Gull	1284	-----	83
Herring Gull	1	-----	49
California Gull	1304+	184	757
Short-billed Gull	322	-----	250
Anna Hummingbird	7	23	18
Kingfisher	1	-----	1
Red-shafted Flicker	23	6	21
Black Phoebe	9	11	19
Say Phoebe	1	-----	1
Horned Lark	2	-----	17
Raven	1	1	-----
Chickadee	18	67	75
Bush-tit	50+	4	94
Creeper	2	1	3
Vigors Wren	3	7	17
Western Robin	14	11	16
Hermit Thrush	12	12	21
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	-----	6+
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	33	31	23
American Pipit	22	50	28
Audubon Warbler	23	53	181
Townsend Warbler	2	5	5
English Sparrow	84	37	16
Meadowlark	32	-----	17
Brewer Blackbird	325+	-----	300+
House Finch	12	-----	143
Pine Siskin	-----	45	49
San Francisco Towhee	5	13	8
Junco	22	69	57
Nuttall Sparrow	189	355	325+
Golden-crowned Sparrow	20	7	71
Fox Sparrow	3	7	19
Song Sparrow	18	19	36

In addition to the above, the following birds were observed along the Marina and ocean beach only: Pacific Loon 1; Red-throated Loon 1; Holboell Grebe 1; Brown Pelican 5; Brandt Cormorant 1; Baird Cormorant 3; American Golden-eye 1; Surf Scoter 8; Snowy Plover 20; Surf-bird 2; Black Turnstone 45; Sanderling 205.

Golden Gate Park only: Redhead Duck 13.

Lake Merced only: California Heron 3; American Bittern 4; Greater Scaup 2; Red-bellied Hawk 1; Virginia Rail 3; Sora 1; Florida Gallinule 9; Wilson Snipe 9; Barn Owl 5; Willow Woodpecker 1; California Jay 3; Wren-tit 4; Winter Wren 1; Tule Wren 8; Hutton Vireo 2; Myrtle Warbler 41; Yellow-throat 21; Red-winged Blackbird 6; Tricolored 25+; Purple Finch 7; Willow Goldfinch 63; Green-backed Goldfinch 8; Savannah Sparrow 1; Lincoln Sparrow 2.

The total number for the entire territory covered was 94 species, the largest number seen in the fifteen years of census taking, with 12,361 individuals, smaller than last year's record by 557 individuals. This is perhaps due in part to the fact that in the territory which included Fort Mason, only one Robin was seen. Here many of the trees and the shrubs have either been cut down entirely or to a great extent and all the ground cover has been removed. This particular place has always produced a great many of the ground feeding birds as well as many Robins. This same condition exists in the Presidio; and at Mountain Lake all trees have been removed and many of the tules to make way for an approach to the Golden Gate Bridge which is being built along the edge of the lake.

Along Lobos Creek we encountered much debris thrown down into the canyon, which prevented us going through. Here are always found California Jays and many Quail besides other brush-loving birds. We also were unable to cover Baker's Beach as night was approaching and it was becoming too dark to identify birds. Here, no doubt, we would have had Ring-billed Gulls, which are missing for the first time since 1928.

The Raven was a new species added to the list this year, one having been seen in Golden Gate Park at the Chain of Lakes and one at Land's End.

Those taking part in the census were Messrs. and Mesdames Jencks, Stephens; Mesdames Courtright, Kelly; Misses Danz, Pringle; Messrs. Berliner, Bolander, Bremer, Cudaback, Greenhood, Holmes, Kingsley, Kirker, Millard, Myer, Ray and Webb.

December, 1938, Field Trip

On the 11th of December, twenty members and three guests gathered on the University of California campus for the monthly field trip. With the exception of a cold wind in the morning the day was ideal.

To cover the ground more completely, the party divided into two groups, spending a pleasant morning on the campus. Coming together near the stadium, we continued up Strawberry Canyon to the Botanical Gardens. Several species of birds were represented by rather large numbers; those having the greatest number of individuals were Bush-tits, Kinglets, Hermit Thrushes and Pipits.

The members and guests enjoyed luncheon, followed by a business discussion at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Myer, who were again our very kind hosts.

A total of thirty-three species was noted, as follows: Red-tailed and Sharp-shinned Hawks; Quail; Anna Hummingbird; Willow Woodpecker; Red-shafted Flicker; Black Phoebe; Coast and California Jays; Plain Titmouse; Bush-tit; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Wren-tit; Vigors Wren; Robin; Varied and Hermit Thrushes; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Pipit; Audubon and Townsend Warblers; Pine Siskin; Brewer Blackbird; Purple Finch; Green-backed Goldfinch; Spotted and Brown Towhees; Junco; White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox and Song Sparrows.

Some of the members proceeded by automobile to the Aquatic Park, where among other interesting birds was an Old Squaw Duck. Seventeen additional species were seen, as follows: Eared, Western and Pied-billed Grebes; Farallon Cormorant; Canvas-back, Scaup, American Golden-eye Old Squaw and Ruddy Ducks; Coot; Sandpiper; Sanderlings; Glaucous-winged, Bonaparte, Herring, Ring-billed and Western Gulls.

Members attending were Messrs. and Mesdames Millard, Myer, Stephens; Mesdames Courtright, Kelly; Misses Berg, Blake, Cohen, Danz, Giddings, Hunt, MacIver, Perdue, Rinehart, Sterne; Messrs. Greenhood, Kirker, with three guests: Mrs. Deuprey, Miss Brown, Ed. Holmes.

Harold Kirker, Historian.

Audubon Notes

January Meeting: The 22nd annual meeting will be held on Thursday evening, the 12th, at 8 o'clock, in room 19, Ferry Building.

The evening will be devoted to the reading of annual reports and the election of officers and directors for the ensuing year, to be followed by a general discussion for the improvement of Association activities. Members are urged to attend.

January Field Trip will be taken to Lake Merritt, Oakland, on Sunday, the 15th. Members will take Key Route boat at 9:20 a. m. and the Grand Avenue car on the Twenty-second Street train, leaving car at Grand Avenue and Perkins Street, where party will meet. Bring luncheon.

The annual census of the ducks will be taken and a request is made for volunteers.

December Meeting: The 256th regular meeting was held on the 8th, in room 19, Ferry Building, with thirty-one members and guests present. President Junea W. Kelly presided.

The following observations were reported:

Gordon Bolander: Lake Merced, Raven, November 11th; Cinnamon Teal male, 12th; male and female, December 6th; Bufflehead Duck, 2 females, November 12th and December 5th; Red Phalarope last time seen November 12th; Varied Thrush, December 5th; Clapper Rail, one found dead on the ocean beach at Thornton, November 17th, and one seen near Harding Club House, December 5th; the Ring-necked Pheasant, a female, reported at Lake Merced, Novmbr 8th, was shot by truck gardeners on the 11th.

Mr. Dunshee: Ross, White-throated Sparrow, November 25th and 26th.

Commander Parmenter: Sears Point Cut-off, 12 Snowy Egrets, 3 Bufflehead Ducks, Duck Hawk, 100± Long-billed Curlew, November 21st; Spring Valley Lakes, Hutchins Goose, 11th; 458 Canada Geese, 15th; Golden Eagle, 12th; Tomales Bay, 11 Black Brant, 4 Bufflehead Ducks, 28th; San Mateo Bridge, 7 Knots, 16th; Presidio, Pigeon Hawk, December 7th.

1939 Dues: The annual dues for the year of 1939 are now payable and all members are asked to make their remittances as early as possible to the Treasurer. It is requested that all checks be made in the name of the Audubon Association of the Pacific.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President	Mrs. G. Earle Kelly	1311 Grand St., Alameda, Calif.
Corresponding Secretary	C. B. Lastreto	260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer	Mrs. A. B. Stephens	1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, $3.00 per year.

Student memberships, $1.50 per year. Life memberships, $50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.